



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

SOCIOLOGICAL NOTES.

Atlanta Conference on Negro City Life.—In the *ANNALS* for July* some account was given in the Sociological Notes of the investigation conducted by the University of Atlanta, concerning negroes in cities. An analysis of that work, together with numerous tables, was published by the United States Department of Labor in its *Bulletin* for May. It was also stated that the facts brought out in that investigation were made the subject of discussion at the second Conference for the Study of Problems concerning Negro City Life held at Atlanta University on May 25 and 26 of this year. The papers and outlines of the discussions on that occasion have just appeared in print as "Atlanta University Publications No. 2." Much credit is due to Mr. George G. Bradford, a lawyer of Boston and a trustee of Atlanta University, for his persistent efforts to organize practical conferences on a strictly scientific basis as a part of the public duty of the Atlanta University in dealing with the question of the proper education of the negro. The whole tone of the two gatherings that have been held thus far has been of a far-reaching and helpful character.

One of the papers summarized the results of the investigation as follows:

First.—All the data in the investigation have been gathered by intelligent colored men and women living in the communities covered (chiefly Southern cities). These investigators were not hindered by obstacles which make it difficult for a white man to get accurate information of the family life, habits and character of the colored people. These colored investigators cannot be charged with prejudice and designs against the interests of the colored people. For these reasons their work is thought to be more than usually accurate and reliable.

Second.—Overcrowding in tenements and houses occupied by colored people does not exist to any great extent, and is less than was supposed.

Third.—In comparison with white women, an excess of colored women support their families entirely, or contribute to the family support, by occupations which take them much of their time from home to the neglect of their children.

* Vol x, p. 143.

Fourth.—Environment and the sanitary condition of houses are not chiefly responsible for the excessive mortality among colored people.

Fifth.—Ignorance and disregard of the laws of health are responsible for a large proportion of this excessive mortality.

Another paper shows that the colored death-rate exceeds the white, the excess averaging for five cities, during a period of fifteen years, 73.8 per cent; that the death-rate of the colored population in these five cities is lower for the period 1890-95 than for the period 1881-85, thus indicating some improvement; that the principal causes of the excessive mortality among the colored people of these cities are pulmonary diseases and infant mortality; that the least disparity between the white and colored death-rates is for those diseases due to unwholesome sanitary conditions, such as typhoid, malarial and scarlet fevers, diphtheria and diarrhea. The writer of this paper, Mr. L. M. Hershaw, of Washington, says, in conclusion: "This last fact, that the excessive death-rate of the colored people does not arise from diseases due to environment, is of vast importance. If poor houses, unhealthy localities, bad sewerage and defective plumbing were responsible for their high death-rate, there would be no hope of reducing the death-rate until either the colored people became wealthy or philanthropic persons erected sanitary houses, or municipalities made appropriations to remove these conditions. But since the excessive death-rate is not due to these causes, there is reason for the belief that it may be reduced without regard to the present economic conditions of the colored people."

Resolutions and recommendations were adopted at both the sectional and general meetings of the Conference. Some of them went pretty sharply into details on questions of individual conduct and all of them were free from sentimentality and were exceedingly earnest in spirit. Here are some of the general resolutions:

Resolved, that it appears from the result of the investigation:

First.—That the excessive mortality among negroes is not due mainly to environment;

Second.—That the excessive mortality among negroes is largely due either to their ignorance or to their disregard of the laws of health and morality;

Third.—That the excessive mortality and the apparent increase of immorality among the negroes is chiefly due to neglect of home and family life, the chief cause of which is the extent to which the mothers are obliged to go out to work;

Fourth.—That the failure of the men to entirely support their

families with their earnings has a most serious effect upon the social, physical and economic progress of the race;

Fifth.—That, finally, it appears that the negro must reform himself, and that he is not dependent upon charity or municipal regulations, but has the means in his own hand.

Resolved, That the following recommendations be made:

First.—That the attention of members of the Conference during the coming year be concentrated on reforms in the family life of the negro;

Second.—That greater care and attention should be given to the home-training of children, and also of young men and young women, and that parents' associations and mothers' meetings should be formed for that purpose;

Third.—That day nurseries should be provided for the care of infants and young children in the enforced absence of parents;

Fourth.—That friendly visiting among the poor should be more general and more systematic, and that friendly visitors should hold weekly or monthly conferences under the direction of those who are making a special study of social problems.

There was a vast amount of plain speaking and pointed discussion on the part of the colored speakers at the Atlanta Conference. There is no more encouraging sign than just such work on the part of the colored people themselves. The educated colored man can say things to his own people that come with poor grace from a white man, and there is the further advantage that it is not so apt to give offence in cases where the advice is unpalatable.

In connection with this topic we wish to call attention to an able article by Dr. W. E. B. DuBois in the *Atlantic Monthly* for August. It is entitled "Strivings of the Negro People," and has special interest coming as it does from one of the best trained colored leaders who has just been elected Professor of Social Science and History at Atlanta University.* It goes to the root of the so-called race problem in a fresh and instructive manner.

The Consumers' League.—Most of the active recent discussion of economic theory has been along the lines of consumption and its influence on production, distribution, value, price, etc. Professor Patten in this country, Professors Marshall and Smart in Great Britain, and some members of the Austrian school, have often hinted at ways in which this newer economic doctrine could be made socially effective and could be given an ethical application of the highest importance. The Consumers' League is the crystallization of some of these ideas in a practical attempt to render them operative

* See above p. 104.

on a scale large enough to change some of the worst existing industrial conditions.

Mr. John Graham Brooks has discussed the subject before large audiences in Boston, New York and Chicago for some time and his labors have begun to bear fruit. He defines the Consumers' League as "an association of persons who desire, so far as practicable, to do their buying in such ways as to further the welfare of those who make or distribute the things bought." He states the idea of buyer's responsibility as follows:

"We shall give these truths their simplest form of statement if we say that the buyer (consumer) may be, in the very act of buying, a creator. The shoddy buyer is shoddy maker. In a very real sense, to buy a harmful thing is to help make that thing. We often use the words 'order' and 'get made' in ways which bring out the responsibility of the buyer for the kind of thing he 'orders' or 'gets made.' 'I hate these high-heeled and narrow-soled boots,' says a manufacturer, 'but people will buy them and so I make them.' Still more than this is true; to buy products made by laborers working in unwholesome surroundings is to help perpetuate those evil circumstances. . . . If, in the world's economic processes, to buy an ugly thing is to get it made; if to buy sweated garments is to become a partner of the sweater, we should readily concede that buyers have a responsibility as definite as it is serious."

Members of the league endeavor to find out how the goods which they buy are made and to buy only those made under wholesome conditions. Professor Smart was for many years at the head of a large and successful industrial establishment. He speaks therefore with knowledge of the actual industrial possibilities when he says: "A slight awakening of the public conscience has induced some to ask if it is not possible to demand some guarantee that the goods we buy are made by workers paid decent wages and working under healthy conditions." This is the method pursued by the league, to demand some guarantee from the seller that the things sold are made under right conditions without unnecessarily sacrificing human life and happiness. Some leagues have a "white list" of stores which the members patronize because they have received from them satisfactory guarantees that the goods sold there are made under fair conditions. In the very large stores, however, it is often almost impossible for the management to know about the sources from which all their goods come. Not until the demand for this information comes from a much larger per centum of their buyers will they take the trouble to know. Most managers of such establishments admit that if the buyers, or any large number of their

patrons, really cared about and insisted on knowing how the things they bought were made it would not be long before ways were devised by which such information could be furnished. Mr. Brooks, at present, seems to prefer a "white list" of goods rather than a "white-list" of stores. He recognizes fully that the large store and even the bargain counter has a legitimate work to do, and under present conditions greater care in the selection of the articles we buy would do more good than any blind reliance on particular stores.

Cheap goods are not necessarily made under bad conditions. Mr. Brooks is careful to point out how improved machinery and tendencies in the factory type of industry make it possible to produce cheaply and yet under the best conditions for the wage-earner. Indeed, he carries this thought out until he reaches the conclusion that the factory type, not necessarily the large factory, but the factory type of industry is preferable to any home industry. It can be brought under better inspection for one thing, and the industrially unfit classes, whom every economist admits are the worst enemies of the large mass of wage-earners, can be more readily eliminated from harmful competition. Even a new distribution of power, such as may be looked for from electrical inventions, instead of bringing back the home industry, may preferably bring about a better distribution of factories as regards geographical location, and perhaps a larger number of small factories which can compete with the large ones.

The union labels, which are being used more widely every year, are usually a guarantee of wholesome sanitary conditions, fair wages and reasonable hours for the worker. Mr. Brooks might discuss this method a little more fully and deal also with the real difficulties and dangers from an abuse of the power thus placed in the hands of the unions and what safeguard can be used against them. No one is more competent, from practical knowledge of the workings of the unions, to speak on this subject than the author of the interesting pamphlet which explains the Consumers' League.*

A high standard of excellence in demanding only perfect goods, which are always the cheapest from the point of view of true economy, is one sure method of helping to secure for the producer the fairest conditions of life. If league members will follow this rule, even when it means a curtailment in amount of things consumed,

* *The Consumers' League.* The economic principles upon which it rests and the practicability of its enforcement. By JOHN GRAHAM BROOKS. Pp. 26. Price, 15 cents. Cambridge: The Co-operative Press, 1897. Profits from sale of this pamphlet go for the uses of the league.

that is fewer wants and better wants, they will free themselves from many obstacles in attaining their real aim. It is rarely possible to produce reasonably perfect goods under bad conditions for the wage-earners. In the long run bad conditions produce poor goods and the wise buyer will serve himself and the cause of the league by a critical avoidance of makeshifts for articles which he cannot afford to supply properly or because they are apparently cheap. Mr. Brooks, in future editions of his pamphlet, may well give more room to the elaboration of this idea and at the same time explain to the uninitiated more fully what the union label is and what it involves.

Dietaries of Institutions in Boston.—In the second annual report of the institutions commissioner of Boston for the year ending February 1, 1897, the results are given of an investigation into the food supplies of the various institutions under the control of the city of Boston, which the commissioner directed Mrs. Ellen H. Richards and Miss S. E. Wentworth, chemical experts of the Institute of Technology to make. The changes in the dietaries which have resulted from this investigation are instructive and may well encourage similar work in other cities.

For prisoners and inmates of houses of correction who are usually able-bodied adults it is recommended that the food should not be stimulating. It should contain less meat and more bread, fewer spices and condiments than the ordinary diet. It should be well cooked, palatable and easily digested food, but not too attractive a menu so as to encourage petty crimes. The light exercise ration which should go to all, with an extra allowance to those who work, is as follows:

Meat and fish (four-fifths meat and one-fifth fish).....			10	ounces
Salt pork, lard, suet, etc.....	1		"	
Flour, etc.....	14		"	
Oatmeal, cornmeal, hominy, barley, etc.....	2		"	
Peas, beans, cheese, etc. (seven-eighths peas and beans; one-eighth cheese)	2		"	
Potatoes.....	12		"	
Vegetables.....	6		"	
Sugar	2		"	
Milk	4		"	

This is estimated to yield: proteid, 103 grams; fat, 73 grams; carbohydrates, 426 grams; calories, 2848. The cost, exclusive of tea, coffee and condiments, is supposed not to exceed seven cents at present market rates in Boston.

For reformatories, where inmates are usually young and where

more systematic hard work is carried on with a view to reform, the following dietary containing more meat and fat is recommended:

Meat and fish (three-fourths meat; one-fourth fish).....	12	ounces
Salt pork, lard, suet, etc.....	1	"
Flour, rice, etc.....	14	"
Oatmeal, cornmeal, hominy, barley, etc.....	2	"
Peas, beans, cheese (seven-eighths peas and beans; one-eighth cheese).....	2	"
Potatoes.....	12	"
Vegetables.....	6	"
Sugar.....	2	"
Dried fruits.....	$\frac{3}{4}$	"
Milk.....	4	"
Butterine.....	$\frac{1}{2}$	"

This is calculated to yield: proteid, 111 grams; fat, 91 grams; carbohydrates, 436 grams; calories, 3088; and to cost, exclusive of tea, coffee, condiments, etc., eight and one-fourth cents.

For almshouse inmates the report recommends the house of correction diet for all able-bodied adults for whom it is desirable to make the institution as little attractive as possible; for the old and infirm inmates, a more generous ration, as follows:

Meat and fish (three-fourths meat; one-fourth fish).....	7	ounces
Salt pork, lard, suet, etc.....	$\frac{1}{2}$	"
Flour, rice, etc.....	11	"
Oatmeal, cornmeal, hominy, barley, etc.....	2	"
Peas, beans and cheese.....	1	"
Potatoes.....	6	"
Vegetables.....	4	"
Sugar.....	3	"
Dried fruits.....	$\frac{1}{2}$	"
Milk.....	12	"
Butterine.....	0.7	"
Eggs.....	$\frac{1}{2}$	"

This is expected to yield: proteid, 83 grams; fat, 71 grams; carbohydrates, 368 grams; calories, 2509; and will cost about eight cents, exclusive of tea, coffee and condiments.

For children it is intended that the food will permit of growth as well as sustain life. For children over six the same schedule as that just given for old persons is recommended with the following changes: increase the amount of beans and peas one ounce, milk four ounces, dried fruits one-fourth of an ounce, eggs also one-fourth ounce. This is expected to yield: proteid, 93 grams; fat, 77 grams; carbohydrates, 389 grams; calories, 2692, and should not cost more than nine cents, exclusive of cereal coffee, condiments, etc.

For the insane it is necessary that the diet shall be as nourishing as possible in order to work any improvement. Chronic cases may be kept on a simpler and less costly diet, but for the more hopeful cases the following average diet is recommended :

Meats and fish.....	12	ounces
Salt pork, lard, suet, etc.....	$\frac{1}{2}$	"
Flour, rice, etc.	12	"
Oatmeal, cornmeal, hominy, barley, etc.....	$1\frac{1}{2}$	"
Peas, beans, cheese.....	1	"
Potatoes	12	"
Vegetables.....	6	"
Sugar	3	"
Dried fruits.....	1	"
Milk	16	"
Butterine	1	"
Eggs.....	$\frac{1}{4}$	"

This is intended to yield: proteid, 110 grams; fat, 100 grams; carbohydrates, 421 grams; calories, 3107; and to cost, exclusive of tea, coffee, etc., ten and three-fourths cents at present market rates in Boston.

The report states that the cost for all these dietaries is liberal for numbers over three hundred and in practice should fall well within the limits. "The amounts called for apply to the *raw material* and are sufficient, provided the food is well prepared and utilized by the inmates. The estimates allow for a necessary and normal waste of ten per cent of proteids and carbohydrates in the preparation, but assume that the fat is used in one form or another. The meat must be fresh, of medium fatness, and the raw materials in every case of good quality. Graham or whole wheat bread should be used when possible, especially for children. Molasses may be substituted for sugar when it is considered economical, or otherwise desirable to do so, in the proportion of one and one-half ounces of molasses to one ounce of sugar."

Labor Legislation in Pennsylvania.—The legislature which has just adjourned passed several bills in the interest of labor which have received the governor's signature. Among them was an eight-hour bill, which provides that eight hours out of twenty-four shall constitute a legal day's work for workmen, mechanics and laborers in the employ of the state or any municipal corporations therein, or otherwise engaged on public works. This applies to contract work as well as that done directly in the employ of the state. The act also provides that in all such employment none but citizens of the United States, or aliens who have declared their intention to become such, shall be employed, and all such employes must have

resided in the state six months preceding the date of such employment. Any public officer violating this act is guilty of malfeasance in office and may be removed by the Governor or head of the department to which said officer is attached. If any person contracting with the state or any municipal corporation violates this act, he is liable to a fine of one thousand dollars.

Another act is known as the "Anti-Pluck-Me-Store Bill." This act is aimed at a grievance that has had its chief seat of activity in the oil and coal regions of Pennsylvania, and we therefore quote the act in full as follows:

AN ACT to tax all orders, checks, dividers, coupons, pass books or other paper, representing wages or earnings of an employe not paid in cash to the employe, or member of his family; to provide for a report to the Auditor-General of the same; for failure to make reports and reward to party informing Auditor-General of failure to report.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted* by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That every person, firm, partnership, corporation or association engaged in operating oil or gas wells, conducting oil or gas in pipes, operating quarries, operating canal, steamboat, ship, steamship, ferry transportation, towage, paving, macadamizing, steam heat, steam power, telephoning, telegraph, express, electric light, electric railways, railroad, cable road, water or gas companies, mining or manufacturing, shall, upon the first day of November of each and every year, make a report under oath or affirmation to the Auditor-General of the number and amount of all orders, checks, dividers, coupons, pass books or other paper, representing the amount in part or whole of the wages or earnings of an employe, that were given, made or issued by him, them or it for payment of labor and not redeemed by the said person, firm, partnership, corporation or association giving, making or issuing the same, by paying to the employe, or a member of his family, the full face value of said order, check, divider, coupon, pass book or other paper representing an amount due for wages or earnings in lawful money of the United States, within thirty (30) days from the giving, making or issuing thereof, the honoring though of said order, check, divider, coupon, pass book or other paper representing an amount due for wages or earnings by a duly chartered bank by the payment in lawful money of the United States to the amount of said paper representing an amount due for wages or earnings is a payment, and he, they or it shall pay into the treasury of the commonwealth ten (10) per centum on the face value of such orders, checks, dividers, coupons, pass books or other paper representing an amount due for wages or earnings not redeemed as aforesaid, and in case any person, firm, partnership, corporation or association shall neglect or refuse to make report required by this section to the Auditor-General on or before the first day of December of each year and every year such person, firm, partnership, corporation or association so neglecting or refusing shall pay as a penalty into the State Treasury twenty-five (25) per centum in addition to the ten (10) per centum tax imposed as aforesaid in this section on the face value of all such orders, checks dividers, coupons, pass books or other paper representing amount due for wages or earnings not redeemed by paying the employe or a member of his family in lawful money of the United States in thirty (30) days by the person, firm, partnership, corporation or association making, giving or issuing the same. The honoring of paper representing wages or earnings by a bank is a sufficient payment.

The so-called "Weiler Bill" is an act to protect employes of corporations in their right to form, join or belong to labor organizations by prescribing penalties for an interference therewith. This act makes it illegal to exact as a part of the labor contract any pledge not to form or join or belong to a lawful labor organization. The penalty for any violation of the act is a fine of not more than two thousand and not less than one thousand dollars and imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or either or both in the discretion of the court.

The Prison Bill is interesting in many ways and we give the text in full:

AN ACT limiting the number of inmates of state prisons, penitentiaries, state reformatories and other penal institutions within the State of Pennsylvania, to be employed in the manufacture of goods therein, and prohibiting the use of machinery in manufacturing said goods.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted* by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That from and after the passage of this act no warden, superintendent or other officer of any state prison, penitentiary or state reformatory, having control of the employment of the inmates of said institution, shall employ more than five per centum of the whole number of inmates of said institutions in the manufacture of brooms and brushes and hollow-ware, or ten per centum in the manufacture of any other kind of goods, wares, articles or things that are manufactured elsewhere in the state, except mats and matting, in the manufacture of which twenty per centum of the whole number of inmates may be employed.

SECTION 2. That the officers of the various county prisons, work houses and reformatory institutions within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, shall not employ more than five per centum of the whole number of inmates in said institution in the manufacture of brooms and brushes and hollow-ware, or ten per centum in the manufacture of any other kind of goods, wares, articles or other things that are manufactured elsewhere in the state, except mats and matting, in the manufacture of which twenty per centum of the whole number of inmates may be employed, provided, this act shall not apply to goods manufactured for the use of the inmates of such institutions.

SECTION 3. That no machine operated by electricity, hydraulic force, compressed air, or other power, except machines operated by hand or foot power, shall be used in any of the said institutions in the manufacture of any goods, wares, articles or things that are manufactured elsewhere in the state.

SECTION 4. Any warden, superintendent or other officer or person having control of the employment of inmates of any of the within mentioned state or county institutions or other penal institution or institutions wherein convict labor is employed, within the State of Pennsylvania, violating the provisions of this act shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be sentenced to pay a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars or undergo an imprisonment not exceeding one year, or both, at the discretion of the court.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect on the first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight.

The Prison Bill had the active support of the labor organizations,

and yet in light of recent investigations into prison management in Pennsylvania it seems as if this was beginning a reform at the wrong end. Some restriction of the competitive features of prison labor is doubtless desirable, but it is difficult as it is for the prison warden to supply labor to his inmates and without it prison management is inhumane and unproductive of the best results in which the workingman is as much interested as anyone else.